

# Drama 3/4 AB Syllabus

2023-2024

**Ms. Abigail Paxton**

RM 403 • (559) 327-3000

[abigailpaxton@cusd.com](mailto:abigailpaxton@cusd.com)

Buchanan Drama Website: <http://bearstage.org>

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION: DRAMA 3**

*Prerequisite: Drama 2 AB (P) with “B” or higher and Drama 2 Tech with “B” or higher, or permission of instructor*

Drama 3AB is an advanced class, including directing and design.

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION: DRAMA 4**

*Prerequisite: Drama 3 AB (P) with “B” or higher, or permission of instructor*

Drama 4 AB will involve advanced work in acting, building on the skills and techniques developed in previous course work, and will encourage the development of effective creative expression and leadership ability in Theatre Arts. Areas of study may include advanced work in characterization, motivation, character analysis, stage movement and gestures, and use of body and voice in theatrical production.

## **PRIORITY STANDARDS**

This is a National Core Arts Standards-based course (with careful, selective attention to appropriate ELA Common Core Standards). All standards will be taught, with a special emphasis on the following (<https://www.nationalartsstandards.org/>):

### **CREATING**

- Anchor Standard #1: Generate and conceptualize artistic ideas and work.
- Anchor Standard #2: Organize and develop artistic ideas and work.
- Anchor Standard #3: Refine and complete artistic work.

### **PERFORMING/PRESENTING/ PRODUCING**

- Anchor Standard #4: Select, analyze and interpret artistic work for presentation.
- Anchor Standard #5: Develop and refine artistic techniques and work for presentation.
- Anchor Standard #6: Convey meaning through the presentation of artistic work.

### **RESPONDING**

- Anchor Standard #7: Perceive and analyze artistic work.
- Anchor Standard #8: Interpret intent and meaning in artistic work.
- Anchor Standard #9: Apply criteria to evaluate artistic work.

### **CONNECTING**

- Anchor Standard #10: Synthesize and relate knowledge and personal experiences to make art.
- Anchor Standard #11: Relate artistic ideas and works with societal, cultural and historical context to deepen understanding.

## RECOMMENDED MATERIALS

For your overall academic success, it would be beneficial to have the following items (if you need assistance obtaining these items, please contact me):

- access to a **computer** with **internet access**
- use of your **school email**, **google drive account**, and **google classroom**
- a planner or calendar to keep track of the agenda and assignments
- **pen, paper**, and a **highlighter** for occasional written work during class time

\*\*This class will largely function in person. However, some assignments will be submitted online, and some digital work may be assigned.

## CLASSROOM CONDUCT AND EXPECTATIONS

- Students are expected to be on time and ready to learn when the bell rings. This includes preparedness of any and all assignments that are due that class period. Students entering the class after the bell will be marked “tardy” in the attendance record.
- **BE RESPECTFUL AND RESPONSIBLE.** Any behavior in which a student engages must be appropriate. This means no references to **drugs, alcohol, sexuality**, or other **unsuitable issues**. Anything considered unkind or inconsiderate is unacceptable.
- **Profanity** is not tolerated.
- Please put cell phones and other electronic devices away during class time.
- **Be positive and willing to try! Listening to instructions and follow them the first time they are given! *There are no excuses!***

## BATHROOM POLICY

*This rule is subject to change at any time without warning.*

You may use the bathroom as needed; however, this is privilege that will be removed if it is abused.

Class time is for academic learning; passing periods, break, before and after school, and lunch are for taking care of personal needs. I do recognize that sometimes there are emergencies that can not wait. I do require you sign in and out of the classroom.

## EATING AND DRINKING

Food in class is okay as long as it is not a distraction to the learning environment. You are expected to clean up your messes.

## OVERVIEW OF ASSIGNMENTS

Below is an overview of the assignments students are expected to participate in this year. The majority of assignments will be covered; assignments are subject to change or modification or can be added or deleted at anytime during the year at the discretion of the instructor.

### **Daily Participation:**

Students are expected to *voluntarily* participate in daily classroom assignments and activities to receive full credit (10 points each class meeting). **This is an “all or nothing” assignment.** Severe misbehavior

can result in a loss of participation points. If you are absent, it is your responsibility to see Ms. Paxton for an assignment to make up these points. Points can also be removed for being off task.

**\*\*These points will be entered at the end of each week as a cumulative assignment for the week.**

**\*\*NOTE: being on your phone, being tardy, or not participating to the best of your ability puts you at risk for losing these points.**

### **Acting: Voice and Movement**

- Tableau/Pantomime
- Improvisation
- Storytelling
- Scenes and Monologues
- Characterization
- Auditioning

### **Writing and Projects**

- **Critiques:** *Students are required to view a LIVE theater performance and complete one critique chart per semester.*
- **Technical Evaluation:** *Students are required to view a LIVE theater performance and complete one technical evaluation chart per semester.*
- Reading and written homework assignments
- Standards-Based Quizzes and Tests
- Multimedia projects & presentations

### **Technical Theatre**

- Directing and Design

### **Historical Context**

- Theatre History
- Careers of stars, directors and designers

### **Performance Projects**

- **Murder Mystery Dinner Theater:** Students will rehearse and produce an improv based performance. Drama will partner with the Culinary Arts CTE Pathway to present an interactive dinner theater experience. Rehearsal will occur largely during class *with the exception of tech week which will take place after school and into the evening.* **The required performance dates are October 26 & 27, 2023.**
- **Charlie and the Chocolate Factory:** October-December Students will rehearse and produce during class this Roald Dahl classic. Students will tour and present this play to elementary schools in the Buchanan Area. *Students will need to arrange their own transportation. They will be excused from any courses missed outside of drama.*
- **BSL: Bear Stage Live:** Students will rehearse and produce a night of sketch comedy. Rehearsal will occur largely during class *with the exception of tech week which will take place after school and into the evening.* **The required performance date is March 23, 2024.**

## **EVALUATION OF ASSIGNMENTS**

Student work will be evaluated on the basis of quality, range of style, depth and complexity of thinking, creativity and originality, and mechanical correctness.

## LATE WORK POLICY:

An assignment is considered late if it is not turned into the teacher by the designated due date. ALL late assignments will be awarded 50% of what the assignment deserves. An assignment worth 10 points can not receive more than a 5/10 if it is late.

I will not accept work past the grading period in which it was assigned.

If you are absent, it is *your responsibility* to contact the teacher to obtain any and all missed materials and information. The google classroom is also an excellent way to keep track daily of what is happening in class and what is for homework. Assignment deadlines are non-negotiable.

## CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM

Students will be expected to complete assignments and tests to the best of **their personal ability** to display learning. Cheating violates this belief and will not be tolerated. Anyone caught cheating will automatically fail the assignment and be subject to school and district penalties.

Plagiarism is the act of using another person's work and submitting it as your own. This behavior is **unacceptable**. Anyone caught plagiarizing will automatically fail the assignment and be subject to school and district penalties.

## GRADING POLICY

Extra credit assignments may be available throughout the school year, but extra credit assignments will not be accepted **unless that student has turned in all of the class' required assignments**. Extra credit can account for no more than 2% of your overall grade.

Your grade will be weighted according to category and determined as follows:

Participation: 30%	A = 100-90%
Performances: 25%	B = 80-89.9%
Written Work: 25%	C = 70-79.9%
Performance Projects: 10%	D = 60-69.9%
Critique: 5%	F = 0-59.9%
Technical Evaluation: 5%	

There will be no rounding of grades (i.e. in order to earn an A-, a student needs to have a 90.0%).

**\*\*NOTE: Parents and Guardians—** Any grade lower than a 70% is not considered passing; I will frequently phone home with information about Drama 3/4 assignments if this percentage applies to your child. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have concerns regarding your child's progress in my class.